

100-0788-76

OLC 76.0448

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20 February 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR: [REDACTED]

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Chairman, Review Staff

SUBJECT

: Senate Select Committee Request

Vietnam Cambodia

1. Attached for your information is a copy of Mr. Miller's 18 February letter to me, which I received during the afternoon of the 19th and discussed at the Executive Committee meeting on 20 February. Also attached is Bill Bader's letter of 12 January, which started this ball rolling, and [REDACTED] 14 January note to me commenting on Bader's 12 January letter.

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2. Over the last month, we have had several discussions with [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] on this matter. The SSC Staff is convinced it has a hard case of Helms trimming his substantive sails and suppressing analysts' truths which he felt would be unpalatable at the White House. I think this interpretation is nonsense. Helms made a judgment call which seemed right at the time and which I think it is pointless to peck over in hindsight. As I have tried to point out to the staff (with no great degree of apparent success), they are taking two documents out of the context of the totality of the Agency's production during the period. So far as I am concerned, the Agency's track record in delivering unpalatable truths about Vietnam to the White House more than speaks for itself and reflects considerable credit on both the Agency and the DCI. This, however, is not a line of reasoning the SSC Staff finds particularly congenial and they apparently prefer to be selective in their critical focus.

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3. I plan to take no action on responding to this letter pending the DCI's directions. He, in turn, will probably not want to make a decision until you have obtained some clarification of what is involved.



George A. Carver, Jr.
Deputy for National Intelligence Officers

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Attachments

cc:



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